

## Tipton, Lantz

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**From:** Robinson.Kathy@epa.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2016 9:54 AM  
**To:** Tipton, Lantz  
**Cc:** Huffman, Diane  
**Subject:** FWD: (CWA - FY17-151109-3709-CV) Referred to Region - Nebraska

12/22/2016

SUBJECT: FWD: (CWA - FY17-151109-3709-CV) Referred to Region - Nebraska  
FROM: Robinson.Kathy@epa.gov  
TO: tipton.lantz@epa.gov  
CC: huffman.diane@epa.gov

Complaint. Forwarded for review/action. Please update ECO with the resolution of this complaint.

-----Original Message-----

12/20/2016 11:26 AM

HQ LEAD NUMBER: FY17-151109-3709-CV

SUBJECT: Referred to Region - Nebraska

FROM: ronharnack@yahoo.com

TO:

Name: Ron Harnack

Address: 19936 Hiway 140

City: Remsen

State: Iowa

Zip: 51050

Phone: 7123580055

Alleged Violator's Name: Big Ox Energy

Alleged Violator's Address: 1617 D Ave.

Alleged Violator's City: Dakota City

Alleged Violator's State: Nebraska

Alleged Violator's Zip: 68713

Tip or Complaint: Big Ox Energy is operating their flare well below the permitted temperature allowing H<sub>2</sub>S gas to escape to the atmosphere. They also have allowed untreated waste from digesters to flow from plant and into storm drains. Recent cold weather froze this activity. I worked as the Plant Manager but resigned in protest of executive team ignoring regulations and employee safety. I was at the Big Ox plant in Riceville, Iowa when a major spill from the digester allowed 40,000 gallons to flow into a local stream. Big Ox buried it and reported days later to DNR they had an 1100 gallon mishap. This led to a fish kill that is still being investigated.

Violation Still Occurring? Yes

State DEP/DEQ/DEM Notified? No